NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE DEMONSTRATION OF AIR POLLUTION CONTROL AND REVIEW OF TECHNICAL SUPPORT DOCUMENTS FOR THE LIBBY AREA

On Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 111, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (Department) will hold a public hearing to take comments regarding the Lincoln County Annual PM-2.5 Control Plan demonstration of attainment and technical support documents (Plan) and to the submission of the Plan to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for inclusion into the Montana State Implementation Plan (SIP).

In 2004, EPA determined the Libby area exceeded annual air pollution levels for fine particulate matter (PM-2.5). High concentrations of PM-2.5 adversely affect public health. On March 23, 2006, the Montana Board of Environmental Review approved revisions to the Lincoln County Environmental Health Department (LCEHD) air pollution regulations (Regulations). The Regulations contain enforceable provisions controlling PM-2.5 emissions from woodstoves, road dust, and outdoor burning. The governor submitted the Regulations to EPA for inclusion into the Montana SIP on June 26, 2006.

To demonstrate that annual PM-2.5 emissions in the Libby area are adequately addressed by the Regulations and woodstove change-out control strategy, LCEHD and the Department compiled data and conducted analyses that included an emissions inventory, a woodstove calculation demonstration, and an air pollution control demonstration.

Interested parties may view and make copies of the Plan at the LCEHD located at 418 Mineral Ave. Libby, MT, 59923 or at the Montana Department of Environmental Quality at 1520 E. 6th Avenue, Helena, Montana 59601. Persons may also contact the Department to be included on a list of Interested Persons.

Interested parties may submit their data, views, or arguments concerning this proposed action either in writing or orally at the hearing. Written data, views or arguments may also be submitted to Debra Wolfe, Montana DEQ, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana 59620-0901 or submitted electronically via email addressed to "dwolfe@mt.gov", no later than 5:00 p.m., March 25, 2008. To be guaranteed consideration, written comments must be postmarked on or before that date.